

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG SEASON



CHAPTER 2



So...this is the place.
This is where I sensed all that power
coming from.



No more time to
wait around and observe...
I have to find out what they know...

...and if I'm too late
already...





Oh! It isn't that simple, Sonic.
Naugus was someone who even
Robotnik was scared of, after all...

Oui...zis Naugus,
from what I am told,
he is a hairyfull fiend...



That's "horrible", Ant...

Zee point esz zat 'e esz powerful
in ways we do not know 'ow to deal with
as we did with Robotneek.

Plus, I can't return to Robotropolis now.

I'm the only Drone unaccounted for
after Doomsday went up in smoke...
he'd figure out I was a Spy in a heartbeat.

So?

OK, fine, we're startin' at a disadvantage,
but that's never stopped us before!



I've tangled with Horn-Head twice now
'n' walked away just fine, 'n' we didn't have
Unc spying for us when we started
this whole mess anyway!



We know all that, Sonic!
And we know we can't
sit around and wait forever.



But Antoine is right:
this isn't the same fight we had with Robotnik!
And that means we need to
approach it more carefully than before!



C'mon, you two;
whatever the solution to this problem is,
we all know it isn't fighting with each other.



...Right.



Still...that does beg th' question:
what in the hoo-haw're we s'posed t'do now?

A comic panel showing Tails, the orange fox, looking determined and speaking. A speech bubble contains the text: "The only thing we can do! If the problem is we don't know enough 'bout Naugus, then we just gotta try 'n' find out more!"

The only thing we can do!

If the problem is we don't know enough 'bout Naugus, then we just gotta try 'n' find out more!

Right, Tails.

Heh heh...
I smell a mission brewin', Sell

Don't get too excited, Sonic.
I still stand by what I said before...

I smell a mission brewin', Sell!

YES

...but it is time to take action.



Bunnie and Antoine should come too.
Rotor will stay here with Sir Charles and hold down the fort.

Out of course, my Princess.

Could use some exercise...

OK, Sally.

Plan's all set, group's all set.

Once we get a new Power Ring,
we'll be good t'go!



He'll be fine, Sal. I promise.

I'm holding you to that, Sonic.
If anything happens to him...



It won't.

Tails ain't a little kid anymore, Sal,
he can do this.

After all, he learned from th' best.



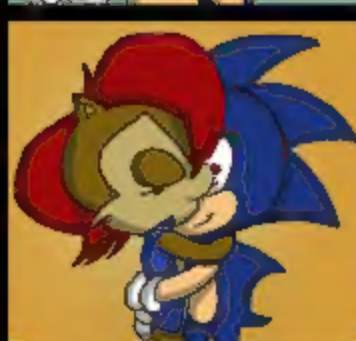
Thanks. But...

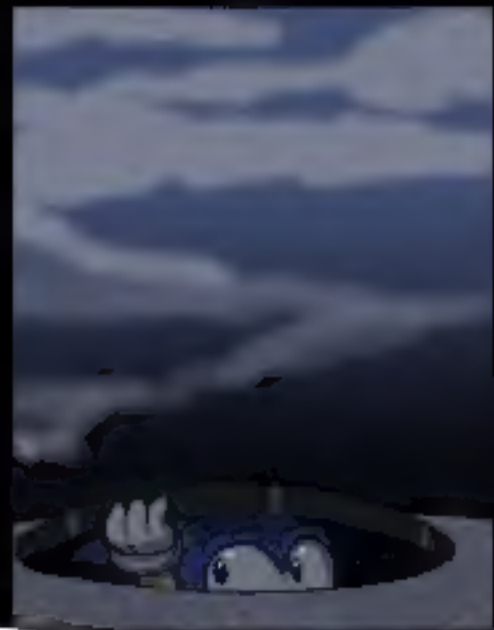
I'm trusting you on this, Sonic.

Don't let me down.



I'm a 'hog of my word, Sal.
Come SWATBats or sneaky spells,
I won't let Tails get hurt.





Coast's clear, guys.



We'll split into teams, get a full feel of what Snivley's done with the city, then rendezvous outside the Citadel in ninety minutes.

Bunnie, you're with me, we'll head to the West side. Tails, Sonic, and Antoine will head East. We'll rendezvous back here in one hour.



Remember, keep in contact and stay alert. Naugus' magic can sneak up on you, so you have to pay attention.

OK...Ready?

Ready 'n' Steady!

Let's do it to it!



Them again...interesting...



Man, Snivley fixed this place up quick.



Well, 'a does 'ave zee magic touch on 'is side now...



Nah, I don't think Naugus' magic works like that.



'Sides, I think I heard that Crabby creep say he ain't as powerful in our universe last time I saw him...



Whoa there, Big Guy, don't go floatin' away on us, we need ya down here!



I think I spotted somethin'.



Somethin'...weird.

Yeah? Gimme a lift 'n' let me see.



Gotcha, Sonic!



You...you are leaving me 'ere alone?



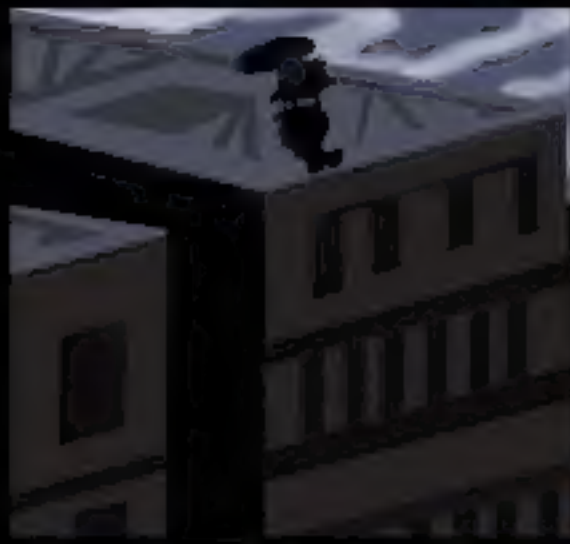
Don't worry, Ant, we'll only be gone a few seconds...

...I think.



You ZINK? Zet is not...





Me either...

There...that's what I saw!

Never...never seen a machine
like that in Robotropolis before...!

Hey, don't poop yourself out, kiddo,
you can take us back down;
I've seen what
I need to see.



EEEEEE!!!

whump



Whoa, WHOA!
At ease there, soldier-boy.



My apologies...
I am, 'ow you say, a bit lumpy?

Normally, I'd correct you 'n' say "lumpy", but honestly?
Can't say you're wrong this time.



Hmph!
So...what did you find?

Somethin' that don't belong.
We'd better check it out.



OK, just...
just gimme a sec first, OK?

Hm hm hm...see, Naugus?

Now that Juilar's robots have been reprogrammed to obey me, things are running along quite smoothly!

Maybe now you'll acknowledge my technological prowess, eh?

Tch...they're *more* than capable, the question is whether *you* have your facts straight about these...

what did you call them again?

Chaos Emeralds.

Primordial relics said to harness the power of the very Universe... I learned of them while researching the Void.

I've no interest in giving your wind-up toys much mind, Snivley, *especially* not before they've shown they're capable of achieving our goals.

How much did you learn?

Enough...

...though I admit, specific information on them was scarce.

Most of what I found came from the myths of long-dead cultures, the Mandarria in particular, and they all spoke of the Emeralds with reverent caution.

Supposedly, the seven Emeralds, scattered across the planet, are physical manifestations of the wild Elements that form our world—fire, water, wind, rock, forest, light, and darkness—that, when gathered together, can bend the very fabric of reality.

Whoever controls all Seven, then, would have potentially *unlimited* power...

Something a man of your...
heh heh... *prestige*...
could most certainly find useful.

At the very least, it would solve your Rodent problem, eh?

True, true...

And even if the Emeralds do prove to be only a Fairy Tale, I'm sure we can find other uses for our new Scanning Apparatus.

I still say you should let me use my Magic to track them instead...

Yes, well, you're not the one in charge, are you?

After all, if it can pick up sources of concentrated energy like your supposed Emeralds, it could also track those blasted Gold Rings the Hedgehog is so fond of.

My Apparatus is far more reliable than any silly spell, and once we create a mobilized version... hm hm...the possibilities will be endless.

Of course, using a Scanner of that magnitude will put a strain on the City's Power Grid...

... but it will be more than worth it if it means stamping out those verminous Freedom Fighters once and for all.

It would seem our new Project has attracted the attention of a certain Blue Pest...

I suppose you want me to take care of them?

Tch! After your miserable failure last time? Go, but take a Mech-Walker team with you.

I'll order a squad to rendezvous with you at the Apparatus.

What d'you think it is?

And what do you zink it is being for?

Dunno...but I'm gonna find out.
You two stay here,
I'm gonna move in closer

No way you go in alone, Sonic! Lemme come too!

At ze very least, contact ze Preencess
and Madememoiselle Rabbit!
Perhaps reinforcements...?

Not a chance!

Only reason Needlenose would put something like
that in the middle of the city is if it's really important,
'n' that means...

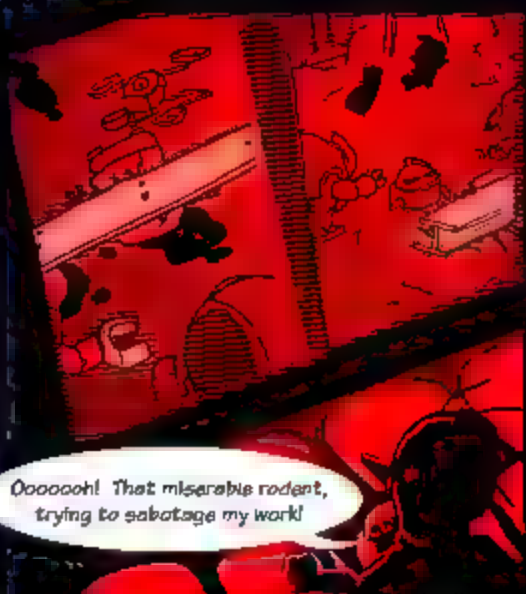
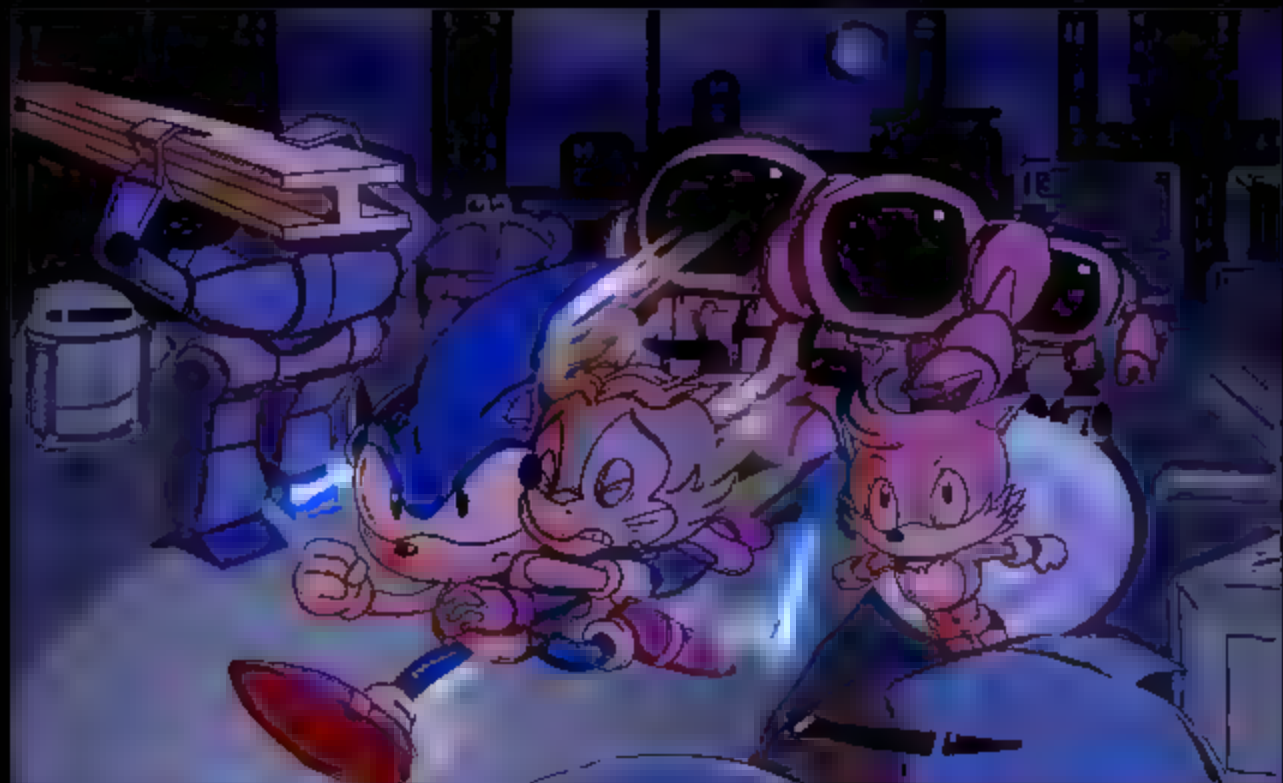
...trouble!

BLAM

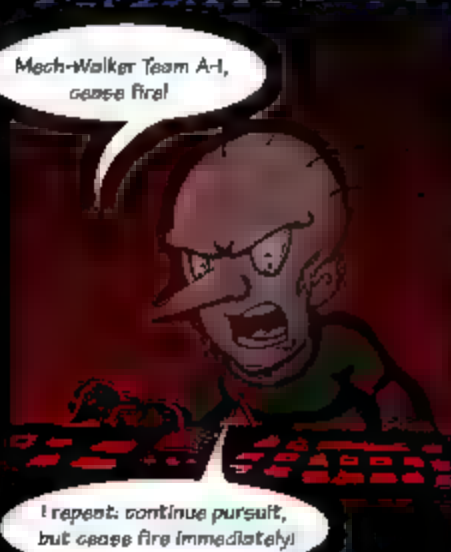
You fuel!

What do you zink you are doing?
You are eading toward more danger!

Keep your goo, Ant,
I know what I'm doin'!



Ooooooh! That miserable rodent,
trying to sabotage my work!



Mech-Walker Team A-1,
cease fire!

I repeat: continue pursuit,
but cease fire immediately!

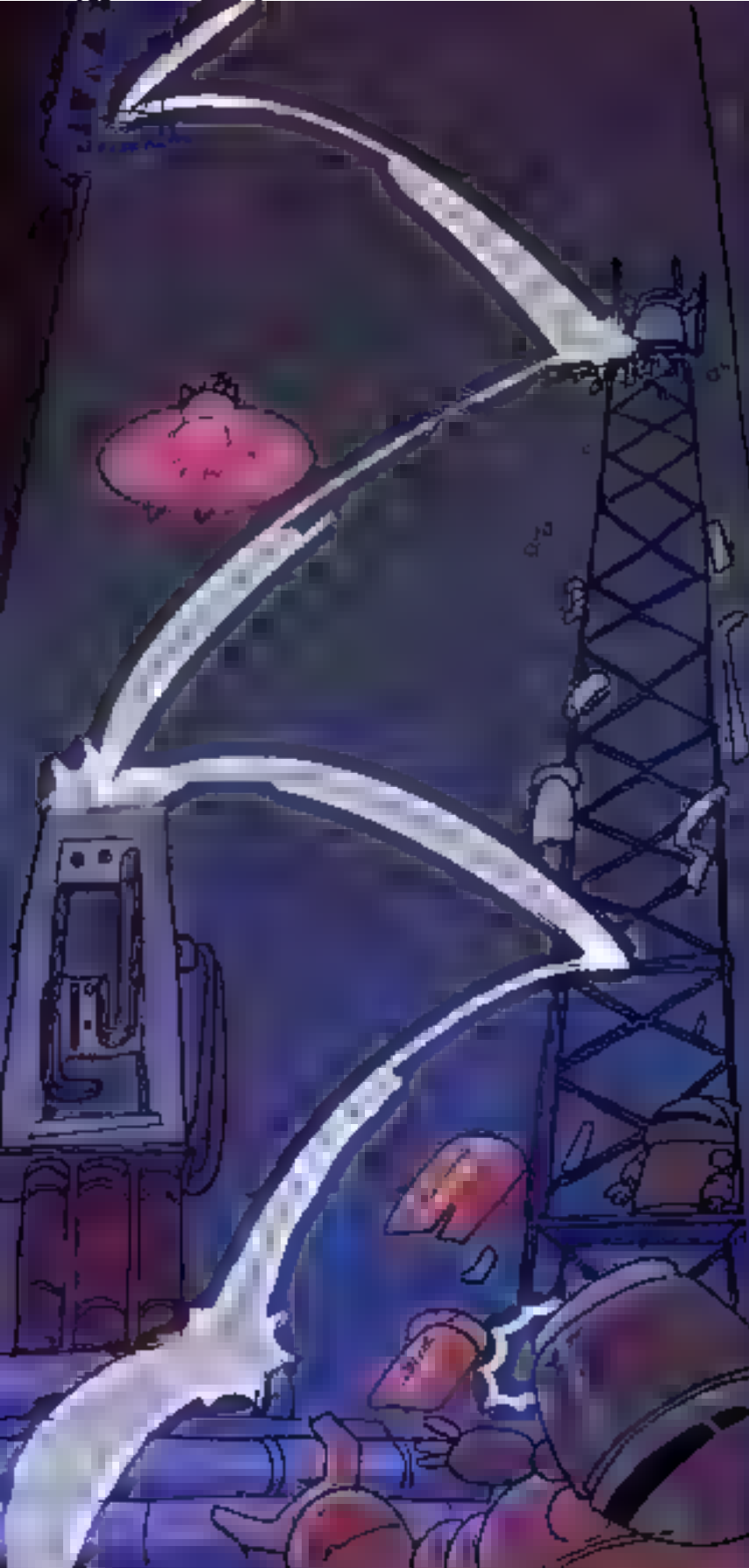


Heh...knew it.



Hey, I'll bet! Follow my lead,
we're heading to the top 'o' this heap!

Gotta go, Sonic!



...We 'ave stopped moving.
It is safe to open my eyes?

You scared of heights?

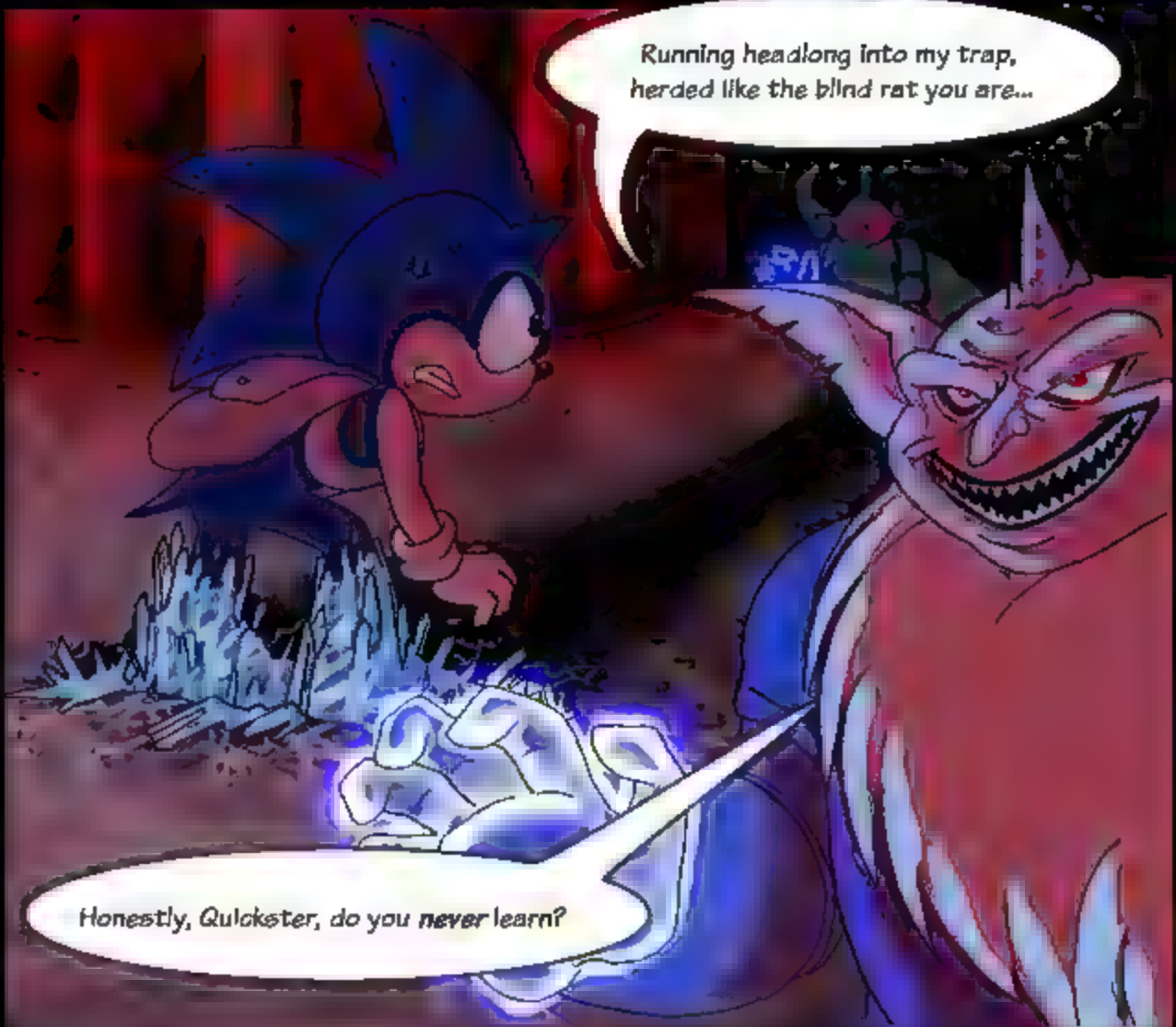
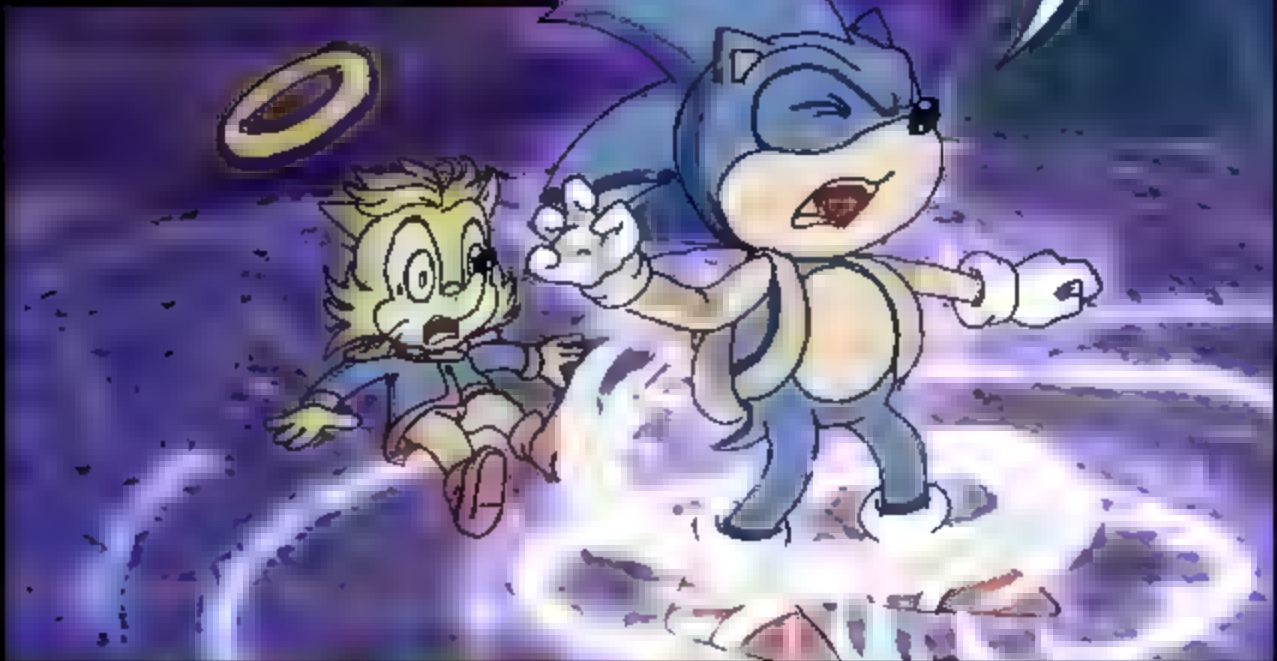
nod

THUNK

Then no.

Heights are the least
of your worries, Quikster!

Crud...!

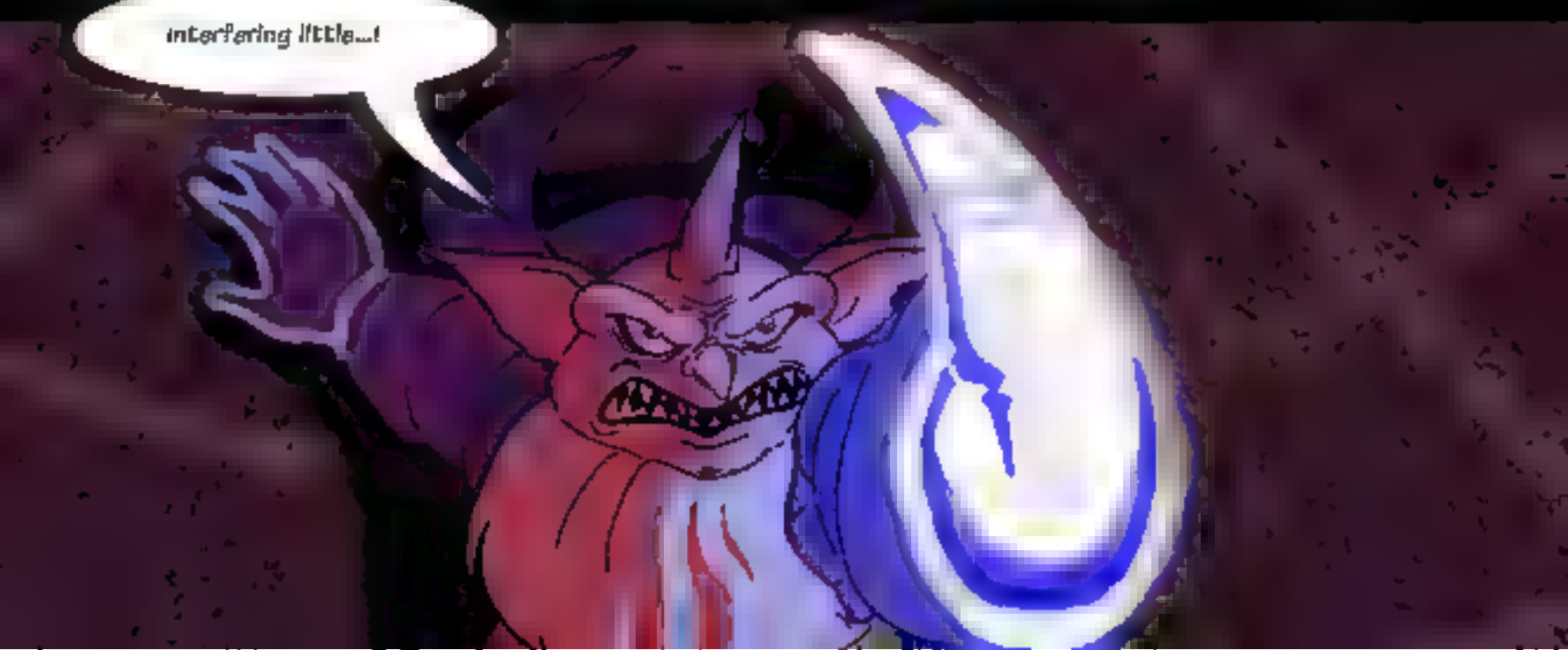


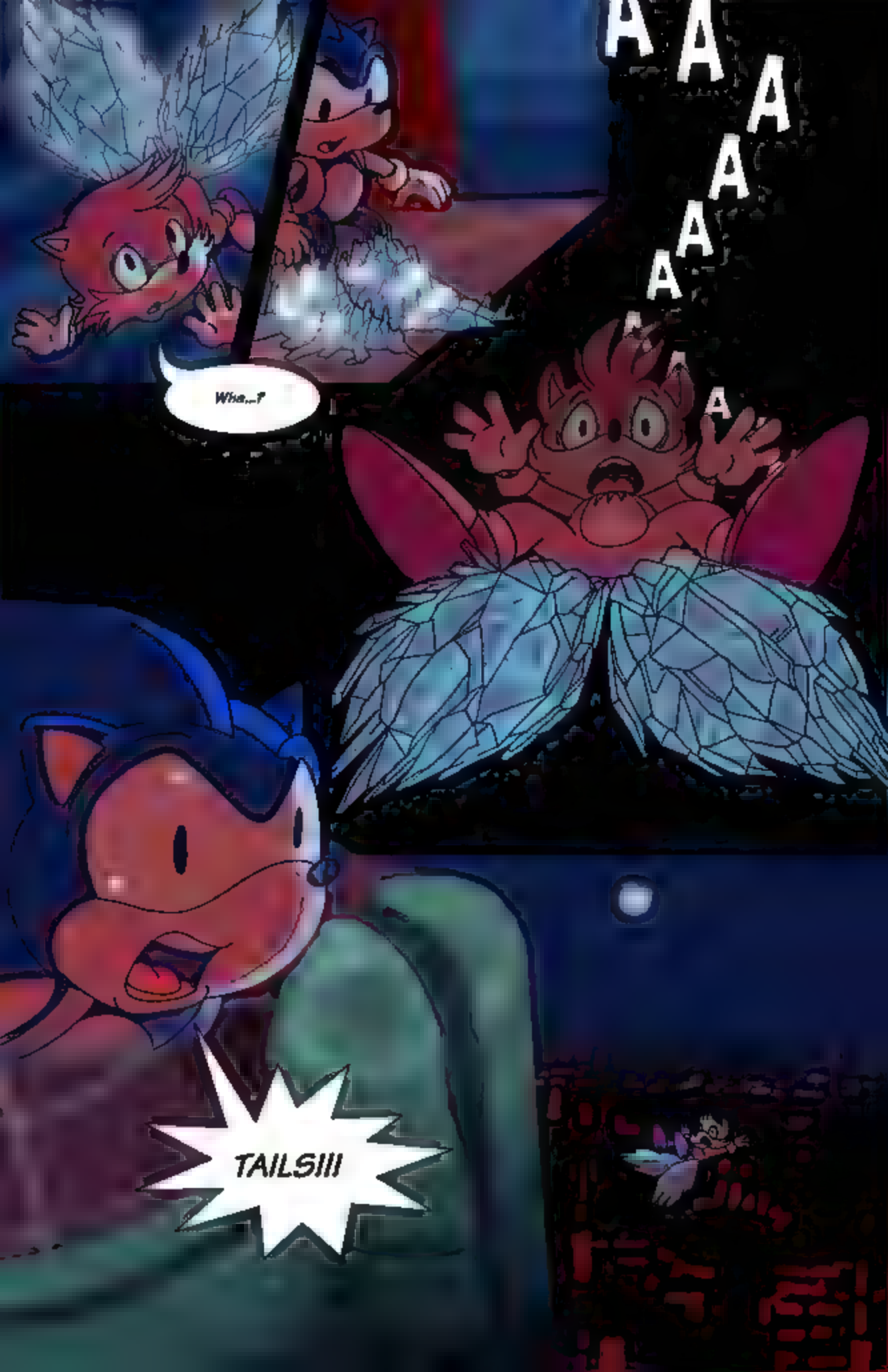
Don't make fun 'o' my noggin when you're the guy whose Boss got it into his head to put *this* eye-sore in his own city.

A minor complaint compared to the reward we stand to reap...

And that'd be...?

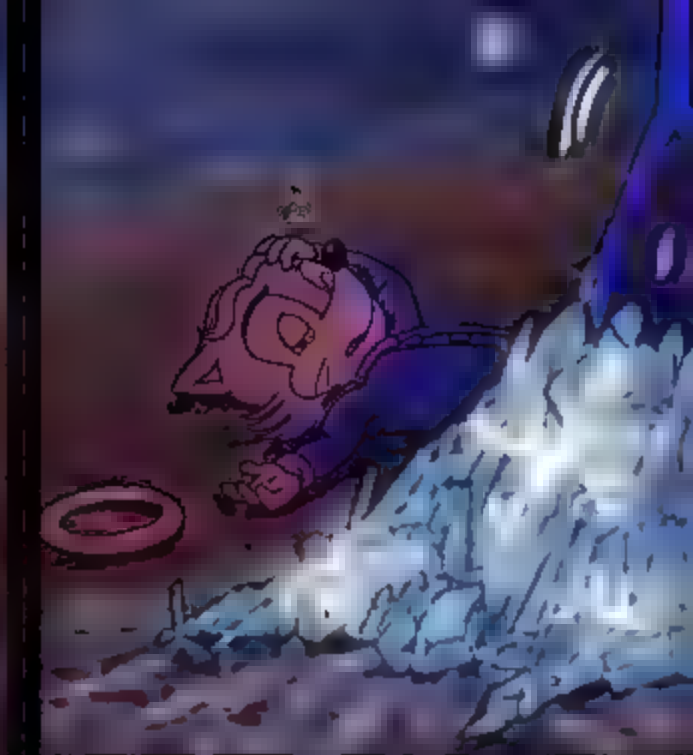
You'll never know.

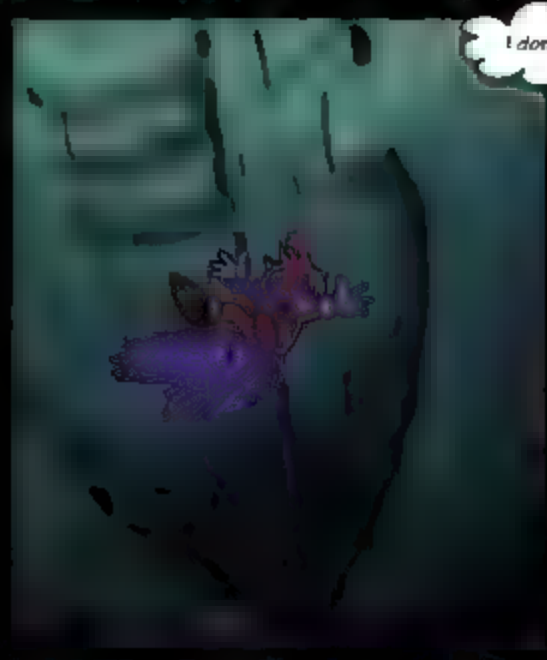




Who...?

TAILS!!!



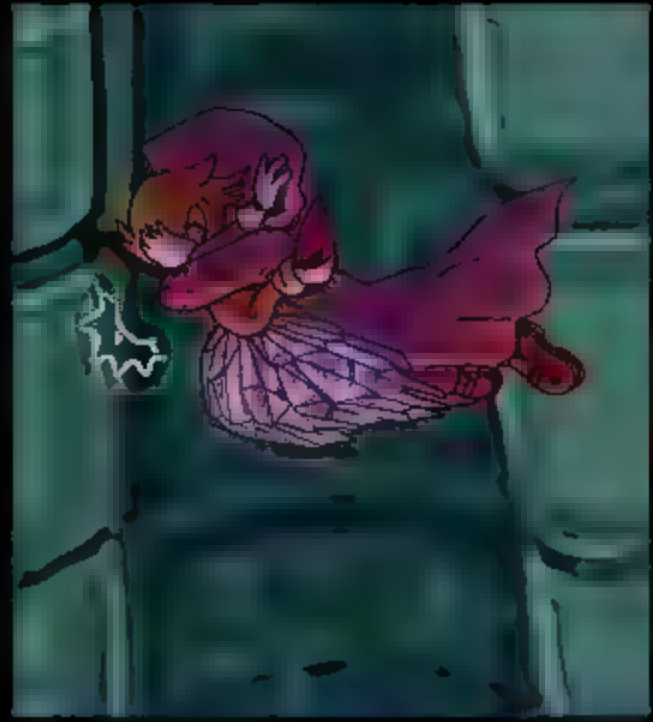


I don't wanna die!



Sonic...
Amy...
everyone...

I let you all down...

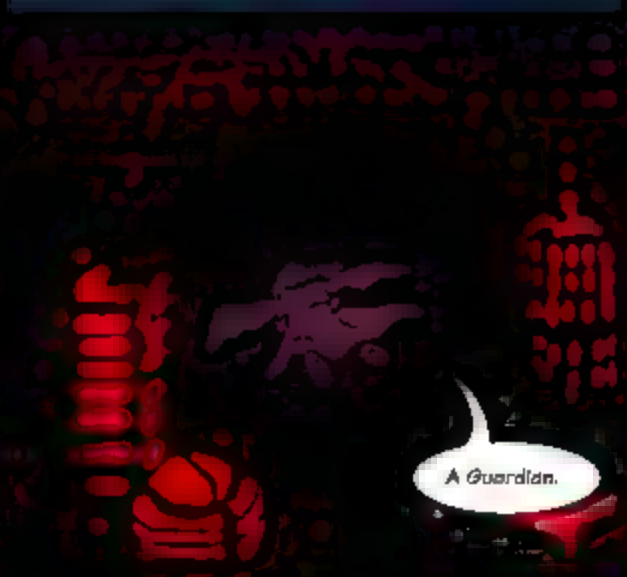


WHAT THE...??

Calm yourself.
You are safe now.



Who...are you...?

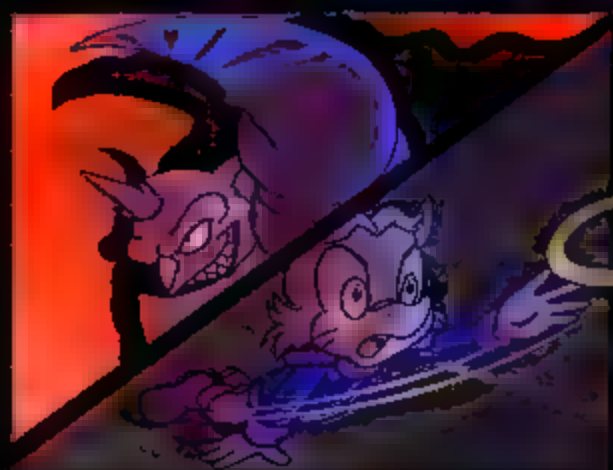


A Guardian.



At long last,
Quickster...

you shall meet your end!



Zonic...



Talk later, move now!

Miserable mechanized monstrosities!
The Hedgehog's already escaped,
you slow-moving scrap piles!

RRAGH!!!

SMASH

Still, scrap *does* have its uses...

Come on, come on!
He had to have
pulled up somehow...

*Nobody's mourning
anyone yet, Anti!*

I second that!

Zonic, while I too am
in ze mourning of Tails,
zis is not a safe place
to be doing it in!

Of course I am!

You didn't really think
I'd go down *that* easy, did ya?

TAILS!
YOU'RE OK!!!

Who's your new friend?

Not for a minute, bud.

It's OK, Sonic, he's on *our* side!

Well, I *think* he's on our side...

I believe there is much we need to discuss.
However, it will have to wait...

Why is zat?

Aw man, doesn't
this creep *ever* give up?

I am zinking now is ze time
to be beating a nasty retreat, oui?

slgh

For once, Ant? You're right.
We gotta contact Sal 'n' Bunnie
'n' get outta here...

And you?

I will come with you for as long as you will let me. We still need to talk.

Follow me, you two! Ant, drop Sal 'n' Bunnie a line, tell 'em to get to the Rendezvous Point 'n' fast!

TEEEAAAAAGH!

Blasted vermin, escaped again...

Naugus! Come in, Naugus!

I read you, Snivley...

Did you catch the Freedom Fighters?

No...

Very disappointing, Naugus...but at least you kept those rodents away from my Apparatus.


Perhaps now my drones can finish their work uninterrupted.

There is one other thing, Snivley...

What? What?


There was someone else with them...

someone different...




C'mon, c'mon...it's been almost fifteen minutes, Sal 'n' Bunnie shoulda been here by now...!

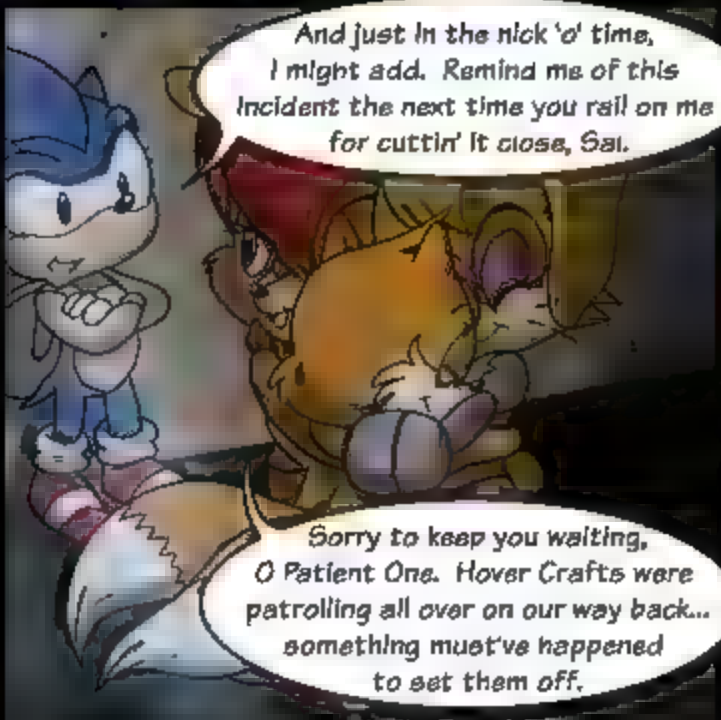
They're...they're OK, Sonic...I know they are...



That's some good intuition ya got there, Sugah-Fox!




Aunt Sally!
Aunt Bunnie!
Ya made it!




And just in the nick 'o' time, I might add. Remind me of this incident the next time you rail on me for cuttin' it close, Sai.

Sorry to keep you waiting, O Patient One. Hover Crafts were patrolling all over on our way back... something must've happened to set them off.



If by "something", you mean us.

What happened, Sonic?



It's a long story, but we've got someone here who wants to talk...

Who in the heck're you?

A Guardian.

He said that to me too..

Tell me...

you..

and you..

...you two have been in contact with a strong source of great power recently, haven't you?

Yes...but how did you know, and why are you interested?

I have a...Sixth Sense...for such things. As for my "Interest"...that is rather complicated.

Try us, Mr. Mystery.

That's easier said than done... neither of us knows the other very well, so you will understand if there is some information I do not yet wish to reveal.

However, what I can say is this: whatever power you invoked, doing so has consequences further reaching than you may realize.

It is of the utmost importance you understand that truth. That is why I came here to this city: to give you this, so you might better understand.

Thank you...

Keep it safe, and read it with an open mind.

Whoa there, L'il Grey Ridin' Hood,
just where d'you think you're goin'?



Yeah, that wasn't exactly the most
informative Q 'n' A we've ever had. There's
still a lot we wanna know.

All you need to know at
the moment is on that scroll. It is
likely we will meet again, but for
now, I must leave...

there are other
matters I must attend to...

Hold up, Sugah-Hog, ah wanna
follow him too, but we ain't got time fer
chasin' shadows right now.



Bunnie's right. We'd better get
back to Knothole quickly so we can
examine this scroll and you can fill us in
on just what happened.



Out...I can not wait for
zis day to be over...





I know Sal's usually the one puttin' ya to bed, Big Guy, but she 'n' Rotor are a little busy with that Mystery Scroll your New Friend gave 'em tonight.

That's OK, Sonic, it's cool.



Sleep well, kiddo.

Um, Sonic?

Yahh, Tails?



Earlier...back in the city...
when...when Naugus zapped my tails...

...when I was falling...
when I thought...I wasn't gonna make it...

I got really scared.

I...I know Freedom Fighters aren't supposed to get scared... 'n' I'm OK now, honest, but...

...I feel like I let you down...
like I can't come with you guys to Robotropolis anymore because I'm not tough enough...



You kiddin', Big Guy? Of course you can, you were great out there today! Spottin' that machine, gettin' the drop on Naugus...we'd be crazy to leave you out.

Look...just because you got scared, that's no reason you can't be a Freedom Fighter anymore. Bein' scared...it's practically part 'o' the job description for us.

R...really?

Really. And I know it's hard, but the thing that counts is gettin' past that fear 'n' still doin' what ya gotta do. You did that today, Tails, 'n' that's how I know you're a Freedom Fighter now.



Thanks...Sonic.

No prob, Big Guy.



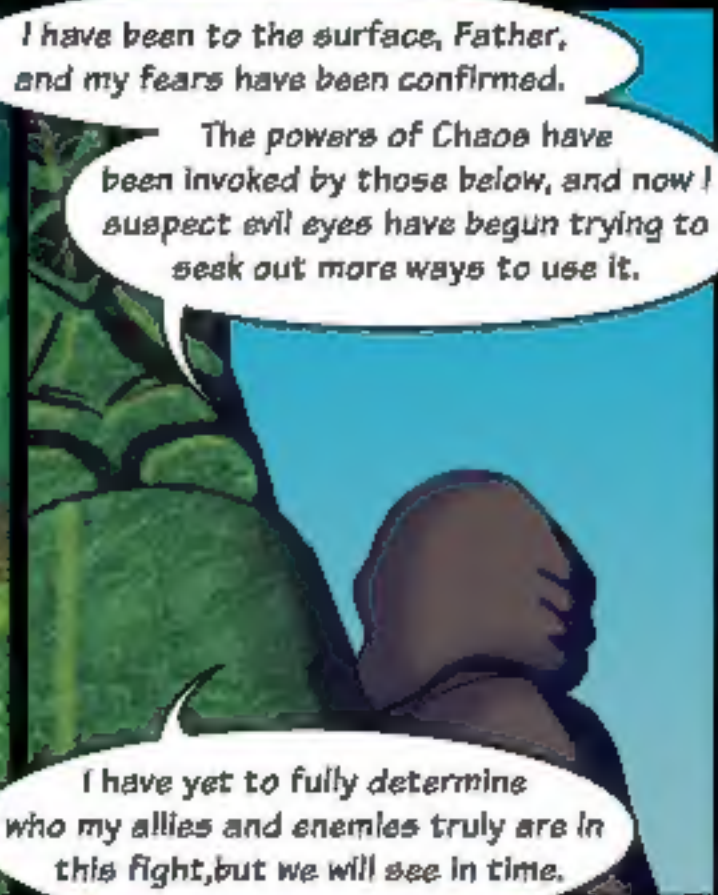
Onight, Sonic.

Night, Tails.





I honor those who came before me.



I have been to the surface, Father,
and my fears have been confirmed.

The powers of Chaos have
been invoked by those below, and now I
suspect evil eyes have begun trying to
seek out more ways to use it.

I have yet to fully determine
who my allies and enemies truly are in
this fight, but we will see in time.



This...is only the beginning.





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What do they put in those Chilli Dogs?

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
SEASON
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